

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 13, 2005 has been carefully considered. Within the Office Action Claims 77-82, 84, 86-93, 97, 99-104 and 106 have been rejected; Claims 83, 85, 90, 92, 98, 105 and 107 have been objected to; and Claims 94-96 have been allowed. The Applicants have amended Claims 79-81, 84, and 99-106. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 77-82, 84, 86-93, 97, 99-104 and 106 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Iwata in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0026266 to Schena et al. (hereinafter "Schena"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 77 and 99

As noted in the filing receipt as well as the Claim of Priority of the present application, the present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/433,657 (now U.S. Patent 6,366,272), filed on 11/3/1999, whereby 09/433,657 is a continuation of the "Parent Utility" U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/664,086 (now U.S. Patent 6,028,593), filed on 6/14/1996. U.S. Patent 6,028,593 claims benefit of "Parent Provisional" Application Serial No. 60/017,803 which was filed on May 17, 1996.

In contrast, Schena is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/401,044 (now U.S. Patent 6,191,774), filed on 9/22/1999, whereby 09/401,044 is a continuation of parent U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/881,691 (now U.S. Patent 6,100,874) which was filed on 6/24/1997. Application 08/881,691 is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/756,745 (now U.S. Patent 5,825,308) which was filed November 26, 1996. Considering that Application Serial No.

08/756,745 does not predate the priority date of the present application, Schena cannot be used as a prior art reference under 35 USC 103(a). For at least these reasons, the 103 rejection must be withdrawn as to Claims 77 and 99. Accordingly, Claims 77 and 99 are in a condition for allowance.

Claims 78-82, 84, 100-104 and 106 have been rejected over Iwata in view of Schena. However, Claims 78-82, 84, 100-104 and 106 are dependent on respective Independent Claims 77 and 99. As stated above, Claims 77 and 99 are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Claims 78-82, 84, 100-104 and 106 are allowable for being dependent on allowable base claims.

Independent Claims 86 and 97

It is stated in the Office Action that Iwata teaches the subject matter claimed in Claim 86. The Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 86, among other things, recites determining whether the first graphical object has engaged a second graphical object based on a path of the first graphical object associated with a prior position of the first graphical object. This limitation is not taught in Iwata. In fact, it is admitted on Page 3 of the Office Action that Iwata fails to disclose or recite determining a path of an object based on previous position of that object. In addition, Schena cannot be combined with Iwata to obviate the subject matter in Claim 86, because Schena does not predate the priority date of the present application. For at least these reasons, Claim 86 is patentable over Iwata in view of Schena, and is therefore allowable.

Claims 87-93 have also been rejected over Iwata in view of Schena. However, Claims 87-93 are dependent on Independent Claim 86. As stated above, Claim 86 is allowable over Iwata and Schena, individually or in combination. Accordingly, Claims 87-93 are allowable for being dependent on an allowable base claim.

It is stated in the Office Action that Iwata teaches the subject matter claimed in Claim 97. The Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 97, among other things, recites computing a path of the first graphical object based on at least a prior location of the first graphical object and determining whether the first graphical object has collided with a second graphical object based on the path of the first graphical object. This limitation is not taught in Iwata. In fact, it is admitted on Page 3 of the Office Action that Iwata fails to disclose or recite determining a path of an object based on previous position of that object. In addition, Schena cannot be combined with Iwata to obviate the subject matter in Claim 97, because Schena does not predate the priority date of the present application. For at least these reasons, Claim 97 is patentable over Iwata in view of Schena, and is therefore allowable.

Allowed and Objected to Claims

The Applicants acknowledge that Claims 94-96 have been allowed and that Claims 83, 85, 90, 92, 98, 105 and 107 have been objected to.

Conclusion

It is believed that this reply places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this reply is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: 3/9/06



Suvashis Bhattacharya
Reg. No. 46,554

Thelen Reid & Priest LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
Tel. (408) 292-5800
Fax. (408) 287-8040